

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-4 are allowed, and claims 5-7 are withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Priority

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging receipt of the priority document filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on November 29, 2001.

Drawings

Consistent with the requirement set forth on page 2 of the Office Action, a substitute Fig. 12 including the “Prior Art” legend is submitted herewith.

Specification

Pursuant to the Examiner’s suggestion, the title of the invention is hereby amended to be clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. In this regard, Applicants note that inasmuch as the method claims are withdrawn, the Examiner’s suggested title has been modified so as not to refer to the method. Accordingly, the new title of the invention is amended to read “ARC TUBE INCLUDING STEP-DOWN PLANE PORTIONS IN PINCH SEAL AREA.”

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby earnestly solicited. If there are any points remaining in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees (except the Issue Fee and/or the Publication Fee) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayment to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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